

APPLICANT(S): RAVI, Ashoke et al.
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REMARKS

The present Amendment and Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-27 have been rejected. Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended.

The amendments to the claims add no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Holdaway in view of Gabara and Treatch

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 4,198,604 to Holdaway ("Holdaway") in view of US Patent Number 6,175,285 to Gabara ("Gabara") and US Patent Number 4,802,235 to Treatch ("Treatch"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1, 11 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holdaway in view of Gabara and Treatch in view of the remarks that follow.

According to M.P.E.P. § 2142, in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Without conceding the appropriateness of the combination, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Holdaway, Gabara and Treatch does not meet the requirements of an obviousness rejection, in that the combination fails to teach or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

Each of amended independent claims 1, 11 and 21 recite, *inter alia*, that the "the first path is parallel to the second path."

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Applicants respectfully submit that none of Holdaway, Gabara or Treatch, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest this feature of independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 11 and 21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Holdaway in view of Gabara and Treatch be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection over Holdaway in view of Gabara, Treatch and Igarashi

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3-10, 13-20 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holdaway, Gabara and Treatch and further in view of US Patent Number 5,950,143 to Igarashi ("Igarashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 3-10, 13-20 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holdaway, Gabara and Treatch and further in view of Igarashi in view of the remarks that follow.

Each of claims 3-10, 13-20 and 23-27 depends, directly or indirectly, from one of amended claims 1, 11 and 21, and includes all the features of the claim from which it depends as well as additional distinguishing features. As discussed above, amended independent claims 1, 11 and 21 are allowable over Holdaway, Gabara and Treatch. Igarashi does not cure the deficiencies of Holdaway, Gabara and/or Treatch; therefore, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 3-10, 13-20 and 23-27 are likewise allowable.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3-10, 13-20 and 23-27 under 35 USC §103(a) over Holdaway, Gabara and Treatch and further in view of Igarashi be withdrawn.

Conclusion

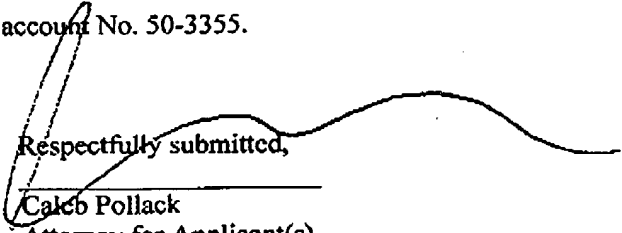
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Response and Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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No fees are believed to be due associated with this paper. However, if any such fees are due, please charge such fees to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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